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tive tissue mass; about this the epithelial cells are subdivided by a network formed from the radiating partitions and the leucocytes; the epithelial cells in the meshes of this network are much enlarged but not increased in number, division having ceased at the time of rupture.

The yellow body is complete in from sixty to seventy-two hours. It is then much larger than the original Graafian follicle, as the epithelial cells are swollen to ten times their former size and are intertwined with the newly formed connective tissue bearing a rich network of capillaries. Later more or less fat is deposited in the epithelial cells and the body has a slightly yellow color, but here, as in some other mammals, the name is misleading.

As far as the author's observations go the corpora lutea do not degenerate, in the mouse, but remain unchanged during the life of the animal and thus add much to the size of the ovary.

Cleavage in Ovarian Eggs.—Professor J. Janosik[3] finds in some follicles that atrophy in the rabbit and guinea-pig ovarian eggs may undergo a real cleavage, though of course there has been no fertilization (as far as known). Such ovarian eggs may form small cells very like polar bodies and lying near a true spindle which is in the position of a maturation spindle. This is more common in young than in old animals.

There are cases of true cleavage with few to many nucleated cells and these cells may be of equal size or some large and some small. There are also cases of "fragmentation" where the isolated masses of protoplasm contain no visible nucleus. In these cases of ovarian cleavage the membrana pellucida disappears as it does in the normal cleavage. Such eggs later atrophy with their follicles.

PSYCHOLOGY.[1]

Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association.—The Fifth Annnal Meeting of the American Psychological Association was held at Boston and Cambridge, on December 29 and 30, 1896. The step taken a year ago of affiliating with the American Society of Naturalists proved so successful that this course has been adopted permanently by the Association. At the present meeting about 35 members were in attendance, besides a large number of visitors who came to the various sessions. The proceedings as a whole were very interesting. The number of papers offered was too great, however, for the time allotted to the sessions; as a consequence each speaker was limited to 15 minutes, involving in many cases a rather fragmentary presentation of the subject. This gave the meeting a somewhat unfinished and unsatisfactory character, for which the content of the papers was in no wise responsible.

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[3] Archiv. f. Mik. Anat., 48. Nov. 7, 1896, pps. 169–181.

[1] Edited by H. C. Warren, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

The Association held two sessions for the presentation of general papers, on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and a special session on Wednesday afternoon for the reading of the President's Address and the transaction of business. Besides this many members attended the discussion on the Inheritance of Acquired Characteristics, before the American Society of Naturalists, where the psychologists' standpoint was represented in the discussion by Prof. James. The lecture Tuesday evening by Mr. Alexander Agassiz on Deep-Sea Soundings, and the reception afterwards at Mr. Agassiz's house, were largely attended by the psychologists, as was also the Annual Dinner of the Affiliated Societies at the Hotel Brunswick, Wednesday evening.

The session of Tuesday morning, (December 29th), was held at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, and was devoted more especially to the experimental side of psychology. The proceedings opened with a paper on the "Physiology of Sensation," by Dr. E. A. Singer, and one on the "Intensity of Sensation," by Mr. J. E. Lough. Both speakers discussed the physical bases of sensation differences. According to Dr. Singer, the data which yield quality distinctions are physiological, and depend on functional differences of the end-organs; while the intensity data, on the other hand, are physical, depending directly on the intensity of the external stimulus. Mr. Lough discussed various theories of intensity, and took the position that the intensity characteristic depends on the greater or lesser prolongation of the stimulus. The maximum intensity effect of a particular stimulus is reached only by passing through a series of neural effects which are the maxima of other lesser stimuli. With a duration less than that which is required to produce this maximum, the effect is a lessened intensity. The speaker reported a series of experiments whose results substantiated this view. Two slits of different breadths were arranged one above the other in a pendulum, so as to admit light and cast two bright images on a reflector. These two images were of the same size and objective brightness; when the pendulum swung, they appeared at the same instant, but one lasted twice as long as the other. It was found that up to a certain time of exposure the broader slit gave an effect of about double the brightness of the other. This was taken as the time required for the maximal effect in the larger slit. When the time of swing was further lengthened this difference in intensity diminished and finally disappeared. Mr. Lough drew a parallel between the intensity series and the scale of muscular sensations, though he was inclined to regard the latter as more than a mere intensity series.

Prof. G. A. Tawney reported some experiments on the effect of practice upon the tactual double point threshold, and the so-called 'Vexirfehler.' As a rule he found that any reduction of the threshold was accompanied by an increase in the number of Vexirfehler. His experiences with different subjects indicated their division into three distinct classes. In some subjects there was a large reduction of the threshold as a result of practice, with a corresponding increase of Vexirfehler; this reduction of the threshold was not confined to the regions actually practiced upon nor to their symmetrical points, but there was found to be a sympathetic reduction all over the body. In other subjects there were few Vexirfehler and only slight reductions of the threshold from practice. In others many Vexirfehler occurred from the very beginning, so that it was difficult to obtain any reliable value for the threshold. Suggestion was found to play an important rôle in every instance, and the results varied greatly according to the degree in which the subject was instructed beforehand as to the purpose of the experiment; where any suggestion was carefully avoided no real reduction of the threshold occurred; some of the subjects to whom no intimation of the nature of the problem was given, failed to get any Vexirfehler at all. The whole phenomenon of threshold reduction and Vexirfehler thus seemed to require a psychological rather than a physiological explanation.

Mr. A. L. Lewis, introduced by Prof. Witmer, read a paper on "Comparison of the Times of Simple Reactions and of Free Arm Movements in Different Classes of Persons." His subjects were white men and women, Indians and negroes, both of the latter classes being males. The instrument used was the Hipp chronoscope, which was tested before and after every series, giving constant and variable errors of only 1σ each. Reactions on sound showed the order, from the shortest time upward, to be Indians, white men, negroes, women; the first two classes were between 100σ and 110σ, the last two were between 150σ and 160σ. For visual stimuli the white men gave a reaction time somewhat shorter than the Indians; the time for free arm movement followed the latter order. In each case the time of the women was considerably longer than that of the white men and Indians.

Prof. Cattell reported upon the work in progress at the Columbia laboratory. He spoke of investigation on the nature of mental imagery. An object is named by the investigator, and the subject reports the order in which the images from different senses are recalled; a passage is read, and the nature of the resulting memory images is investigated in a similar manner. An examination of various poets shows that some, (such as Swinburne), habitually avoid certain harsh sounds, while others, (such as Browning), pay little heed to this point; the former seem better adapted for loud reading, the latter for visual perusal. Prof. Cattell reported another study on the nature, duration, etc., of after images, with special reference to the individual peculiarities of different subjects. The problems under investigation at Columbia include also one on the relation of objective rhythm to the greatest possible speed of voluntary rhythmic movements, one on color nomenclature, and one on the relation between the duration and intensity of light stimulation. According to Prof. Cattell, the results in the last case thus far were not in agreement with those reported by Mr. Lough.

Prof. Witmer read a paper on the "Organization of Practical Work in Psychology." He spoke of the beneficial results to be obtained from the correlation of psychology with medicine and teaching. Up to the present time the results of contemporary psychological investigation have not been scientifically applied, in the instruction of either normal or defective children. Prof. Witmer recommended a number of steps to be taken with a view to accomplishing this end: 1. A series of uniform psychological tests, determined at the outset and not altering constantly with changes of fashion, to be applied everywhere to school children of all grades, and to follow as far as possible the same child throughout its course. Another series, devised in the same way, to be applied similarly to the mentally defective. 2. A permanent exhibit of the results obtained from these tests, and of the methods employed in making them, which should be accessible to teachers and others interested. 3. An experimental training school for the defective classes under psychological auspices. 4. A psychological clinic and dispensary, in charge of an 'expert' with thorough medical as well as psychological training, for children who without any marked mental deficiency are nevertheless backward under the ordinary methods of teaching; children would be brought here for consultation, and after examination the proper treatment or course of training would be recommended.

Miss Mary E. Harmon reported on a series of psycho-physical measurements to which 100 normal school girls and 100 kindergarten pupils of both sexes were submitted. The usual questions of age, parentage, etc., and anthropological measurements, were supplemented by tests of sound reaction, free arm movement time, etc. Among the kindergarten children, the girls were found to be much slower in the arm movement test than the boys, the average times being about 215σ and 155σ respectively.

Prof. Wesley Mills reported on personal experiences under ether. He described the narrowing and intensification of consciousness prior to evanescence, and compared it with De Quincey's similar experiences under the influence of opium.

Brother Chrysostom, of Manhattan College, spoke upon a "Preliminary Study of Memory." A set of 30 questions was distributed among various educational institutions; a few have responded already, and these results were reported. The questions were minute and thorough-going; several were devoted to different characteristics of the attention and its individual variations. One inquiry being as to the time of day in which the best work could be done, the answers were found to be about evenly divided between the forenoon and late evening.

Interesting discussion followed the separate papers, but unfortunately the program was so crowded at both this and the Wednesday sessions that this important part of the proceedings had several times to be cut short.

The meetings on Wednesday (December 30th) were held in the Peabody Museum of Archæology at Cambridge. The morning session was devoted largely to historical and theoretical topics. Prof. Armstrong reported on the growth of the study of philosophy in American colleges in the past twenty-five years; he described the great progress everywhere since 1872 in the number of courses, hours and instructors in the department, the broadening and specialization of the courses, and the increase of special foundations and endowments.

Two papers followed on the relation between mind and body. Prof. D. S. Miller summed up the evidence against the theory of psycho-physical parallelism, and spoke in favor of Bradley's construction of the causal relation. Prof. C. S. Strong, speaking on the same topic, favored a form of the parallelistic theory which recognized the "efficacy of consciousness"; it was a mistake, he argued, to believe that the parallelistic theory necessarily involved the reduction of consciousness to the rôle of an epiphenomenon.

Prof. Creighton discussed the concept of the "Transcendental Ego," and was followed by Mr. F. C. S. Schiller, who examined the nature of "Pessimism," and Prof. James Seth, who discussed the "Standpoint and Method of Ethics." Two papers devoted to logic were given in outline merely. Prof. J. G. Hibben exhibited and explained a set of diagrams by means of which the various forms of immediate inference were generalized and schematized. Prof. A. T. Ormond summed up his position with regard to the negative in logic.

The session closed with a report by Prof. Sanford on a new eye sphygmograph, which furnishes the best available method (apart from vivisection) of measuring the blood supply of the brain. After describing the apparatus, he exhibited diagrams of records obtained by means of it before and after nervous excitation; these were compared with simultaneous records of the wrist pulse.

The afternoon session was devoted to the Address of the out-going President, Prof. Fullerton. The subject of the address was "The 'Knower' in Psychology." Opening with an historical review of the position taken by various thinkers regarding the agent or subject of knowledge, he proceeded to criticise in detail the theories held by Prof. Ladd and other members of the Association. After the address Prof. Ladd replied to the criticism of his own views.

At the business meeting of the Association, Prof. J. Mark Baldwin, of Princeton, was elected President for the ensuing year, and Dr. Livingston Farrand, of Columbia, was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer. Several new members were elected into the Association, and the two annual vacancies in the Council were filled. The committee appointed at the previous meeting (1895) to formulate a system of uniform physical and mental tests, submitted their report, which was not read in full owing to the lateness of the hour. The committee were unable to agree on a complete system of uniform tests; they recommended that for the present considerable latitude be given within certain broad lines, with a view to comparing various tests, so that the best may eventually be adopted.—H. C. W.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

The American Society of Naturalists met December 29th, at the Harvard Medical School, Boston. The meeting of the affiliated Societies, was fully up to the standard of previous gatherings, both as to the amount of work accomplished and the attendance. The programs of